



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Extension of ODIHR Director Christian Strohal

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 2, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

By the adoption of this decision, the United States wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent job that Ambassador Strohal has done as Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and its strong conviction that he will continue to serve the ODIHR, the OSCE, and all of its participating States well by continuing as Director during the coming period.

We noted with satisfaction the broad support and confidence of participating States in the integrity of ODIHR and of its leadership.

At the same time we would also like to express our deep disappointment that it proved impossible to extend Ambassador Strohal's mandate for three years, which would have been in keeping with precedent, both for ODIHR Directors and for heads of other OSCE institutions. We do not believe that the current extension for a period of less than three years should be seen as a new precedent, and sincerely hope that in the future heads of OSCE institutions will be considered for extension based on their merit and service to the organization, rather than on any other extenuating circumstances.

I would request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.